

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 10 January 2011 at 6.30 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Robertson In the Chair
 M McNeely
 F Simpson
 J Waterhouse

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

Two members of the public

ER039/10 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Bowlas, Dixon and Routledge.

ER040/10 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

ER041/10 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

No matters were raised by members of the public.

ER042/10 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

ER043/10 5. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

There were no applications for financial assistance.

ER044/10 6. PROVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES AND THE 2011/12 BUDGET

Members were told that a letter dated 23 December 2010 had been received from Northumberland County Council advising that in the light of the severe cuts they needed to make, a range of local services would need to be reduced or possibly removed, and that local councils would be asked to take these on, and precept for the costs involved for 2011-12. A detailed schedule of services and costs was

being prepared and would be completed by 7 January. This information had not yet been received. County had confirmed that the date for submission of precept requests would remain 24 January.

Members agreed that no decisions could be taken in view of the very limited timescale and the absence of detailed costs, and that any shortfall in services would probably require to be met by special expense.

ER045/10

7. THIRD LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Consideration of this item was deferred as members had not been able to give it detailed consideration. It was scheduled to be discussed at the next Council meeting.

ER046/10

8. THE NEW ROAD

The Chair reported that clearing and tidying work by the County Council had now been completed along the full length of The New Road, and that this had revealed the need for repairs to stone walls, the surface of the path, and public seats which needed maintenance. The County Council was hoping to fund a third of the cost of re-surfacing; this was a project which the Town Council could consider assisting with to enable the work to be completed in one stage, as was the repair and replacement of seats, with the possible addition of new seats.

The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with the relevant parties to discuss how the next stage could be taken forward.

ER047/10

9. BERWICK IN BLOOM

The Chair reminded members that a reserve had been agreed for funding the re-stocking of floral beds throughout the Town Council area. The bed in front of the war memorial had been completed.

It was now planned to look in order at beds in Tweedmouth, followed by Spittal, Highfields, Prior Park and other residential areas. Residents groups were essential to the process of agreeing which beds should be tackled.

It was also hoped that new planters could be purchased for the town centre, and the existing planters re-located.

ER048/10

10. BERWICK PARKS PROJECT

Members noted that the consultants Southern Green were proceeding with the preparatory work for the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Part of the work comprised preparing a conservation statement and information was being sought on the history and past appearance of the two parks.

Following a meeting the previous week, including a site visit to both parks, it had been agreed to hold a public consultation meeting on 24 January [NOTE: This date was subsequently changed to 27 January] between midday and 4 pm, at which members of the public could discuss the project and also bring photos and recollections about the parks.

ER049/10

11. BERWICK'S FUTURE – PUBLIC REALM

The Chair advised that the report of the Public Realm Group had been delayed but was expected to be available for consultation shortly.

ER050/10

12. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

There had been no invitations to nominate representatives to outside bodies.

ER051/10

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be on Monday 7 March 2011 at 6.30pm in the Ante Room, the Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed.